

Field Reconnaissance Photo Album Scotts Bluff National Monument, NE

12-15 August 1995

Aerial Information Systems
112 First Street
Redlands, CA 92373



Figure 1-1. Dome Rock and South Bluff; view southwest from the Scottsbluff Super 8 Motel.



Figure 1-2. Scotts Bluff; view southwest from the Scottsbluff Super 8 Motel.



Figure 1-3. Dome Rock and South Bluff; view southwest from the 21st Street/Railroad crossing.



Figure 1-4. Scotts Bluff; view southwest from the 21st Street Railroad crossing.



Figure 1-5. The bluffs; view west from 21st Street, between North Platte River and southern railroad tracks.



Figure 1-6. Scotts Bluff, view west from the west end of the golf course (panorama northern shot). From the east edge of the monument boundary, across the road from the golf course, is the site of an old golf course area, now disturbed; the area is mainly grass with dead Chinese elm trees, scattered yucca and scattered shrubs.



Figure 1-7. Scotts Bluff; view west from the west end of the golf course (panorama center shot).



Figure 1-8. Scotts Bluff; view west from the west end of the golf course (panorama southern shot). From the west edge of the golf course, below the east side of Scotts Bluff, there are trees at the top of the bluff, scattered trees at the top and upper sides, talus/rocks on the side, and scattered yucca, cedar, shrubs, cottonwood, and Chinese elm on the flats below.



Figure 1-9. Yucca, about 1 foot tall; view west from the eastern monument boundary at the transmission line, ditch and paved hiking/biking trail (Eagle Rock in background). The flats at the east monument boundary by the transmission line have grasses about 6 inches to 1 foot tall, some 1 ½ feet tall, with scattered yuccas and very few shrubs; the site is adjacent to pasture, cropland (corn), and housing.



Figure 1-10. Shrub, about 1 foot tall (sagebrush) ?; view west from the eastern monument boundary at the transmission line, ditch and paved hiking/biking trail.



Figure 1-11. Same shrub as photo 1-10 (close-up); view west from the eastern monument boundary at the transmission line, ditch and paved hiking/biking trail.



Figure 1-12. Yucca, about 1 foot tall; view west from the eastern monument boundary at the transmission line, ditch and paved hiking/biking trail.



Figure 1-13. Grasses, about 1 to 2 feet tall; view west from the monument boundary at the transmission line, ditch and paved hiking/biking trail.



Figure 1-14. Ruderal, (?) forbs about 2 inches tall; view west from the monument boundary at the transmission line, ditch and paved hiking/biking trail.



Figure 1-15. The monument bluffs; view east from outside the western monument boundary (panorama western shot).



Figure 1-16. The monument bluffs; view east from outside the western monument boundary (panorama center shot).



Figure 1-17. The monument bluffs; view east from outside the western monument boundary (panorama center shot).



Figure 1-18. The monument bluffs; view east from outside the western monument boundary (panorama eastern shot).



Figure 1-19. Short shrubs, less than 6 inches tall; view south from the western monument entrance sign on the south side of the road. There is another type of dormant clumped shrub, about 1 foot tall, in the hummocky area.



Figure 1-20. Gully with juniper; view south from the western monument entrance sign on the south side of the road.



Figure 1-21. Juniper; about 15 feet tall; at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-22. Grasses, about 2 feet tall, with dead yucca; at the top of Scotts Bluff. There are clumps of dead yucca at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-23. Grasses, about 6 inches to 1 foot tall; at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-24. View northeast from the middle of the south trail at the top Scotts Bluff (panorama southern shot).



Figure 1-25. View northeast from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot).



Figure 1-26. View northeast from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot).



Figure 1-27. View northeast from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama northern shot).



Figure 1-28. Gullies with juniper; view southeast toward Dome Rock, from the end of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Along the highway 92 from the eastern monument boundary to the Visitor Center the terrain is flat to hummocky/rolling; junipers; occur in the hummocky areas and on the gully side; there is scattered vegetation; the short shrubs are about 6 inches tall (sagebrush); the junipers are about 5 to 6 feet tall; the grasses are less than 6 inches tall.



Figure 1-29. View south toward South Bluff and the Visitor Center; from the end of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-30. Stand of ponderosa pine; view west from the end of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-31. Little bluestem (?); from the end of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-32. Yucca and small shrub; view east from the parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff. Yucca occurs on the upper fringe of Scotts Bluff, above the cliffs.



Figure 1-33. Same yucca and small shrub as photo 1-32 (close-up); view east from the parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-34. Ponderosa pines; view northwest, from the north trail at top of Scotts Bluff. The ponderosa pines are 10 to 20 feet tall.



Figure 1-35. Young ponderosa pines and junipers, about 5 to 6 feet tall; view southeast, from the north trail at top Scotts Bluff.



Figure 1-36. The badlands and the north Platte River; view north from the end of the north-western trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. The North Platte River is accessible by vehicle to the railroad underpass. The river contains cottonwood and elm, it never floods; there are sandbars.



Figure 1-37. Rock with mosses; on the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-1. Eagle Rock; view west from the front of the ranger residence (in foreground).



Figure 2-2. Sentinel Rock; view southwest from the front of the ranger residence.



Figure 2-3. Forbs; view west toward Eagle Rock; in front of the ranger residence.



Figure 2-4. Scotts Bluff, south side; view south from the front of the ranger residence.



Figure 2-5. Mitchell Pass; view west from the front of the ranger residence.



Figure 2-6. South Bluff; view south from the Visitor Center parking lot (panorama western shot).



Figure 2-7. South Bluff; view south from the Visitor Center parking lot (panorama center shot).



Figure 2-8. South Bluff; view southeast from the Visitor Center parking lot (panorama eastern shot).



Figure 2-9. The top of Scotts Bluff; view north from the summit parking lot. At the top of Scotts Bluff the yucca is 1 to 2 feet tall; the grasses are 6 inches to 1 ½ feet tall, the junipers are 6 to 15 feet tall; pines also occur.



Figure 2-10. The top of Scotts Bluff; view north from the summit parking lot.



Figure 2-11. Little bluestem (orange) area; view east from the Scotts Bluff summit parking lot. Some disturbed areas have had active restoration.



Figure 2-12. Little bluestem and rabbit brush on other side of the road (extreme right), was once a golf course. View south from the Scotts Bluff summit parking lot.



Figure 2-13. View south from the top of Scotts Bluff, at the end of the south trail (panorama eastern shot). Exotics tend to be found in the old fields and gullies.



Figure 2-14. View south from the top of Scotts Bluff, at the end of the south trail (panorama western shot). From the end of the south trail, at the top of Scotts Bluff faded old farm roads traverse across the flats behind the Visitor Center; the area directly across the road from the Visitor Center has been undisturbed; the colluvial slopes are stable and climbable; undisturbed areas have been slightly grazed; there is a spring at the base of the south trail (Scotts Spring); monument boundary is behind house on other side of Highway 92, and goes north to where gullies come together, then follows the canal; triangle of land by canal and highway was acquired 2 years ago.



Figure 2-15. First tunnel on summit road, note bluestem (orange) on old water line; view southwest from the top of Scotts Bluff, at the end of the south trail. Along the road from the Visitor Center to top of Scotts Bluff the cliffs do not appear to have vegetation; talus slopes have rocks outcrops; ponderosa pines occur at the upper part of the bluffs; yucca occurs up the road; the top of the bluffs mainly have ponderosa pine, juniper, and yucca.



Figure 2-16. View south downslope from end of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff; note shrub density differences. There are non-vascular plants on the bare rock at the flats; sagebrush occurring on the lower talus slopes appear gray, about 1 foot tall; dormant clumpy woody shrubs are about 1 to 2 feet tall; the top of the bluff was probably never grazed.



Figure 2-17. View north upslope from the end of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-18. View east downslope from the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-19. View north downslope from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-20. Opuntia, on the east side of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Opuntia occurs along the rim of the east side of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-21. Yucca and grass; view west from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-22. Sagebrush; view west from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-23. Junipers and grass, with yucca and sagebrush; view east from the middle of the south trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-24. Big bush and juniper; view southeast from the southeast end of the summit parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-25. Pine and juniper with yucca and grass; view west from the north end of the summit parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-26. Draw with grass and yucca; view west from the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-27. Shrubs (sagebrush) and grass, with badland outcrops, juniper in the ravine, yucca on sides below, and rock on top; view west from the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama southern shot).



Figure 2-28. Shrubs (sagebrush) and grass, with badland outcrops, juniper in the ravine, yucca on sides below, and rock on top; view northwest from the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot). Downslope from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff, between the ravines are distributed prairie grass areas.



Figure 2-29. Sagebrush, grass, badland outcrops, juniper in the ravine, yucca on sides below, and rock on top; view north from the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama northern shot).



Figure 2-30. View south from the top of the northern ridge of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-31. View east downslope, from the top of the northern ridge of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-32. Moss, at the northern ridge at the top of Scotts Bluff. North ridge at the top of Scotts Bluff contains yucca, pine, grass, and mats of moss.



Figure 2-33. Chinese elm tree, dead from a freeze 2 years ago, in the old golf course area; view east downslope from the end of the north ridge trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. There are 3 private inholdings in the park. Green triangle area, between dead trees and clay pit, downslope east from north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff, is not wet.



Figure 2-34. World War II clay quarry at the base of the east ridge; view southeast from the north trail at the top Scotts Bluff.



Figure 2-35. Trees, shrubs, and grass; view northeast downslope from the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Green area on the other side of eastern badlands is private pasture.



Figure 2-36. Badlands; view northeast from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Fossils occur in the badlands; the badlands are composed of crumbly clay.



Figure 2-37. Prairie dog town in the middle of the picture (note gray hummocky area); northwest from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. In 1985 there was a burn on the northwestern flats of the monument.



Figure 3-1. View northwest from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama southern shot). The sides of the upper ravines are different community; looking west from the end of the north trail on top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-2. View northwest from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot).



Figure 3-3. View northwest from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama northern shot). Flats far off to the west are grass with shrub/grass areas around it; looking west from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-4. The North Platte River; View north from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Poison Ivy occurs in the lowlands, especially along the canals.



Figure 3-5. Dark brown area is Russian thistle on an old feed lot; view west from north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Hog farm site contains 90% smooth brome.



Figure 3-6. The juniper is denser on the upper slope, sparse sagebrush grades down to denser sagebrush in the flats; view northwest downslope from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. There are no tall shrubs at the top or on the sides of Scotts Bluff; there are few wild currant, about 3 feet tall, at the top; there are junipers clumped on the northern face of Scotts Bluff; and there are mosses on rocks at the top of Scotts Bluff on the north trail. Canada thistles occur in the northern ravines.



Figure 3-7. View north downslope, towards the badlands, from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-8. The badlands; view north from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama western shot). The ravine directly north of the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff contains willows, small sedges, and some cottonwood; the ravines are pretty wet, probably from the canal.



Figure 3-9. The badlands; view north from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama eastern shot). The flat directly north of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff is naturally undisturbed.



Figure 3-10. View of the north peak of Scotts Bluff from the end of north trail.



Figure 3-11. The eastern ridge; view south from the end of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-12. The eastern ridge; view east from the middle of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-13. The badlands; view north downslope from the middle of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-14. The badlands; view north downslope from the middle of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-15. The golf course and the badlands; view north from the middle of the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-16. The eastern ridge; view east from the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-17. The eastern ridge; view east from the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-18. The southern peak; view south from the north trail at the top of Scotts Bluff. Pure stands of ponderosa pine, juniper, and mixed stands of both occur at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-19. Top of the peak area; view north from between the north trail junctions, at the top of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-20. Junipers, yucca and grass (foreground), with some shrub clumps; view west from the northwest end of the summit parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama northern shot).



Figure 3-21. Junipers, yucca and grass (foreground), with some shrub clumps; view west from the northwest end of the summit parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot).



Figure 3-22. Junipers, yucca and grass (foreground), with some shrub clumps; view west from the northwest end of the summit parking lot at the top of Scotts Bluff (panorama southern shot).



Figure 3-23. Lichen on the rocks along the upper rim; along the Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-24. Pines with no junipers; the Saddle Trail switchbacks on the top of Scotts Bluff. The switchbacks on the Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff have very few junipers.



Figure 3-25. Opuntia, yucca, grass, and mosses; along the Saddle Trail switchback at the top of Scotts Bluff. Traveling down the Saddle Trail switchbacks on Scotts Bluff, the rocks along the upper rim have grass, yucca, moss, lichen, pines juniper, some dormant shrubs and opuntia; the northeast edge of upper rim is very diverse.



Figure 3-26. Rock outcrop; along the Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff (Ralph Root in foreground).



Figure 3-27. Grasses; along the Saddle Trail switchback down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-28. Shrub; along the Saddle Trail switchback down Scotts Bluff. Along the Saddle Trail lower switchbacks on Scotts Bluff, there is yucca, grass, an occasional shrub, and some opuntia on the cliff face area.



Figure 3-29. Orange dead grass; along the Saddle Trail halfway down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-30. View east downslope below the Saddle Trail switchback down Scotts Bluff (panorama northern shot).



Figure 3-31. View east downslope below the Saddle Trail switchback down Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot).



Figure 3-32. . View east downslope below the Saddle Trail switchback down Scotts Bluff (panorama southern shot).



Figure 3-33. Dormant shrub clump; after the tunnel on the Saddle Trail switchback down Scotts Bluff. At the tunnel on the Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff there is no sagebrush, but do have yucca, grass, and some shrubs.



Figure 3-34. Grass and yucca, with a few to no sagebrush, some shrubs, most of the grass is bunchy; on the lower part of the Saddle Trail on down Scotts Bluff; view up to the summit appears, the yucca becomes more sparse.



Figure 3-35. Grass, shrubs, and yucca; on the upper flat of the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff. Start to get sagebrush on the Saddle Trail, halfway down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-36. Shrubs and grass, with little yucca and no sagebrush; view up a ravine on the upper flats of the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 3-37. View down the ravine at the upper flats of the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-1. Shrub (snowberry?); at the flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-2. View southeast; from the flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-3. View northwest; from the flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-4. Clump of sagebrush; view southeast from the flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-5. Sagebrush clump and grass; view northwest from the flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-6. Juniper, deciduous riparian, grass with yucca, and grass with yucca and sagebrush; view southeast from the flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff (panorama southern shot).



Figure 4-7. Juniper, deciduous riparian, grass with yucca, and grass with yucca and sagebrush; view south from the bottom flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot).



Figure 4-8. Juniper, grass with yucca, and grass with yucca and sagebrush; view from the bottom flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff (panorama center shot). Behind the Visitor Center there is grass with rare yucca, then up slope grades to rare or sparse shrubs in clumps, forbs all around area are 1 to 2 feet tall.



Figure 4-9. Juniper, grass with yucca, and grass with yucca and sagebrush; view west from the bottom flats on the lower Saddle Trail down Scotts Bluff (panorama northern shot).



Figure 4-10. Shrubs, rhus and gooseberry, dormant low dark shrub is rhus; along the Oregon Trail of the Visitor Center.



Figure 4-11. Rhus growing in ruts and ravines; along the Oregon Trail west of the Visitor Center.



Figure 4-12. Forbs, growing in Oregon Trail routes west on the Visitor Center.



Figure 4-13. Snowberry growing in side draw of the Oregon Trail west of Mitchell Pass. Snowberry is leafing out now (April 13), rhus leafs out later.



Figure 4-14. Snowberry (close-up) growing in side draw on the Oregon Trail west of Mitchell Pass.



Figure 4-15. Small shrubs (?) or forbs (?) on flats by routes of Oregon Trail west of Mitchell Pass.



Figure 4-16. Juniper, grass with a few yucca and sagebrush, and some rhus; view northwest from the Oregon Trail west of Mitchell Pass.



Figure 4-17. View east through Mitchell Pass from the Oregon Trail.



Figure 4-18. Yucca, rhus, sagebrush, and grass; view north from the Oregon Trail route west of Mitchell Pass.



Figure 4-19. Sagebrush, grass, with juniper; view northeast from below and west of Eagle Rock.



Figure 4-20. Sagebrush and grass with a few yucca, dormant shrubs in dark clumps near juniper; view north from the Oregon Trail southwest of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-21. Grass in the foreground, gray sagebrush further back, juniper at ravine, some yucca scattered; view west from the Oregon Trail southwest of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-22. Sagebrush on the edge of the north rim and on the north side of the ravine, juniper on the sides of the ravine, big dormant shrub in the ravine, yucca on the rim and sides of the ravine, grasses everywhere, no sagebrush on the south side of ravine; view west from drainage west of Scotts Bluff off the Oregon Trail.



Figure 4-23. Yucca and grass, rhus on other side of ravine; view northwest from rolling flats west of Scotts Bluff.



Figure 4-24. West side of Scotts Bluff, note the seep on sidedlope.



Figure 4-25. North Platte River; view east from 21st Street bridge.